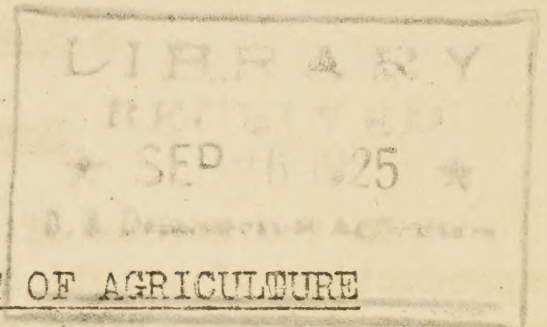


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Extension Service
Office of Exhibits

A Summary of the Exhibit

HORSES FOR POWER

A pictorial booth exhibit showing various uses of horse power; market classes of horses and mules.

Specifications

Floor space - - - - - 11' 3" front
8' 2" deep
Wall space- - - - - None
Shipping weight - - - - - 755 lbs.
Electrical requirements - - 110 volts A.C.
current. 200 watts needed for small
motor, and 500 watts for light. total
700 watts.

HORSES FOR POWER

How It Looks

In the center of this exhibit is a miniature reproduction of a colt creep, which with the cutout horses and colts, blends with the large painting in the center section. This shows a farm scene with four draft horses at work in a field, and adjoining are several more horses grazing in the meadow.

An automatic picture projecting machine presents pictures and text of interest to horse owners. These pictures and legends are thrown on the screen which may be seen in center of the middle section.

The left section presents pictures of draft horses at various kinds of work. On the right section are pictures of riding and driving horses. The booth is 13 feet 3 inches across the front and 8 feet 2 inches deep.

What It Tells

Horses are the most flexible source of power for farm use, readily lending themselves to the work to be done. A recent test demonstrated that a two-horse team can exert a pull of as high as 21 horse power. It is the common practice to use one, two, three, four, five, or six horse hitches in various farm operations, adapting the hitch to meet the power need.

Horse power is characterized by its adaptability to perform various farm operations. The horse is not limited either by the topography of the ground or by his ability to perform only one farm task economically, for he may be used equally well in plowing, harrowing, cultivating, seeding, haying, threshing, and farm and custom hauling under varying conditions.

The horse is self-replacing, earns its keep and increases in value up to the marketable age. Farmers may breed enough mares yearly to replace the marketed stock, thus disposing of mature animals at a profitable figure. The young stock raised under this plan continually increase in value from birth to time

of disposal and, at the same time, pay their way by performing the farm work.

Where horses are kept, soil fertility is conserved and there is no direct cash outlay for power as the horse consumes home-grown feed.

The farm-labor problem may be partially solved through the production of good horses. Where farmers are dependent upon their families for help, horse production furnishes the element of human interest necessary to keep the youngsters home on the farm.

Market Classes of Mules

On the market, mules are classified according to their use, being grouped into five general classes: Draft; farm; sugar; cotton; mining.

The draft class includes the largest mules, standing from 16 to 17-1/2 hands and weighing from 1,200 to 1,600 pounds. They are used primarily for heavy teaming in cities; contract jobs; and lumber camp work.

Farm mules vary greatly in type and quality because the demand for a specific type is not well defined. They range in height from 15-1/2 to 16 hands and in weight from 900 to 1250 pounds.

Animals of the sugar mule class are characterized by ranginess, style and quality. In type, they stand as intermediate between the draft and cotton mule classes. They range in weight from 1,150 to 1,300 pounds and in height from 16 to 17 hands.

The cotton mule is generally lighter, more angular than the sugar or surface mining mule, but heavier than the pit mule. In height, the cotton class varies from 13-1/2 to 15-1/2 hands and in weight from 750 to 1,100 pounds.

Mining mules vary greatly in height and weight depending upon their use. The pit mule of this class weighs about 600 pounds, while the surface type may scale up to 1,350 pounds. The range in height is from 12 to 16 hands.

Where To Get Information

The following publications may be obtained free of charge from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Farmers' Bulletin 1341 - Mule Production

Farmers' Bulletin 803 - Horse-Breeding Suggestions for Farmers